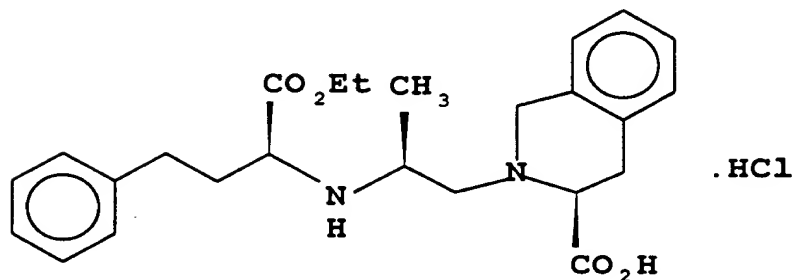


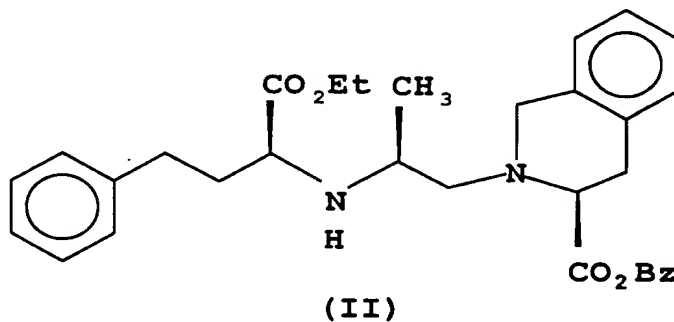
CLAIMS

1. A process for obtaining quinapril hydrochloride of formula (I)



which comprises the stages of:

5 a) treatment of the benzyl ester of quinapril (II)



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where Bz is the benzyl radical, with alcohol and hydrochloric acid or hydrogen chloride and hydrogenation of same through the addition of an appropriate hydrogenation catalyst;

b) removal of the solvent used in step a);

15 c) addition of toluene to precipitate the quinapril hydrochloride as a toluene solvate;

d) treatment of the toluene solvate of quinapril hydrochloride with a solvent belonging to class 3, capable of forming a solvate of quinapril hydrochloride from which it is possible to eliminate said solvent by drying in an oven without degrading the quinapril hydrochloride; and

5 e) drying of the solvate obtained in step d) at a temperature between 40°C and 50°C to yield quinapril hydrochloride (I)

2. A process according to claim 1 wherein the hydrogenolysis reaction of the benzyl ester of quinapril (II) is carried out in an alcoholic solvent, with
10 treatment with concentrated hydrochloric acid or with a solution of hydrogen chloride in isopropanol, and hydrogenation with hydrogen gas in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst.

3. A process according to claim 2, wherein said alcoholic solvent is chosen
15 from between ethanol or isopropanol.

4. A process according to claim 2, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a pressure comprised 10^4 Pa and 2×10^5 Pa.

20 5. A process according to claim 2, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a temperature comprised 10 and 40°C.

6. A process according to claim 2, wherein the hydrogenation catalyst is Pd/C.
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7. A process according to claim 2, wherein the hydrogenolysis reaction of the benzyl ester of quinapril (II) is carried out using ethanol as a solvent, concentrated hydrochloric acid, a pressure of 1×10^5 Pa (1 bar) and room temperature.
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8. A process according to claim 2, wherein the hydrogenolysis reaction of the benzyl ester of quinapril (II) is carried out using isopropanol as a solvent, a

solution of hydrogen chloride in isopropanol, a pressure of 2×10^5 Pa (1 bar) and a temperature of approximately 30 °C.

9. A process according to claim 2 wherein the molar ratio between the
5 benzyl ester of quinapril (II) and the hydrochloric acid can be equal or greater in a proportion of 1.1 (benzyl ester of quinapril (II)) to 1 (hydrochloric acid) with respect to stoichiometric one.

10. A process according to claim 1, wherein the removal of the solvent
10 used in stage a) is carried out by vacuum-distillation.

11. A process according to claim 1, wherein the Class 3 solvent used to
treat the toluene solvate of quinapril hydrochloride is chosen from among ethyl
formate and methyl acetate.
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12. A process according to claim 1, wherein the treatment of the toluene
solvate of quinapril hydrochloride with the class 3 solvent is carried out at a
temperature comprised between 40°C and 45°C, for a period of time comprised
between 1 and 2 hours, and is subsequently cooled down to a temperature
20 comprised between 20 °C and 25 °C, for a period of time comprised between 1
and 2 hours.

13. A process according to claim 1, wherein the Class 3 solvent solvate of
quinapril hydrochloride is chosen from among ethyl formate solvate of quinapril
25 hydrochloride and the methyl acetate solvate of quinapril hydrochloride.

14. A process according to claim 1, wherein the Class 3 solvent solvate of
quinapril hydrochloride is dried in a vacuum oven , at a temperature comprised
between 40 and 50 °C for a period of time comprised between 12 and 24 hours.